



## East Norriton PCE Site Montgomery County, Pennsylvania



### – Public Water Supply Extension Lines – What Homeowners Should Know

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 3

JULY 11, 2005

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to connect residents in the Rahway Avenue area of East Norriton, PA, to public water due to PCE-contamination detected in nearby groundwater and residential wells.

#### What Homeowners Should Know...

##### ... About Public Water:

- Public water supplies are required by law to be frequently tested.
- All public water supply customers receive an annual water quality report, called a “consumer confidence report” or CCR.



##### ... About the Project:

- East Norriton Township and Norristown Borough are working with Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAW) to provide main water line extensions, at no cost to the residents.
- EPA will not conduct residential work without permission from property owners. We are continuing to contact individual property owners to discuss access agreements and work schedules.
- EPA will provide curbside-to-home hook-ups, at no cost to the residents, within the time-frame of the ordinances.
- Areas with the highest levels of contamination will be scheduled for work first, followed by the next highest, and so on, until all Rahway Ave. area properties with private wells are connected.

- EPA will also close up the private wells, so future residents do not unknowingly use the contaminated water.
- EPA will continue to provide bottled water to affected residences until the connection to public water is completed.

#### What to Expect...

Work to extend the existing main water line is anticipated to begin in late July/early August 2005.

Work activities may include:

- road drilling / road construction
- mid- to heavy-sized equipment operations
- drilling access to basements
- yard excavation

Work will be done in stages, requiring more than one visit to a property. EPA will schedule work times and dates that are convenient for the resident. The project is estimated to take about six months to complete. All hook-ups are expected to be completed by the end of the year, however weather could be a key factor in the final schedule.



## Safety Concerns...



We anticipate that the work will temporarily impact the flow of traffic. Some sections of Rahway Avenue and corresponding side street(s) will be partially blocked off during work in that section. The avenue will be limited to only one lane at those work sections. Please keep this in mind while driving and proceed at a slow, safe speed.

## Team Cooperation...

EPA is working on this project as a team with:

- ★ East Norriton Township,
- ★ Norristown Borough,
- ★ Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD),
- ★ Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP),
- ★ and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).



## Background...

In the fall of 2004, perchloroethylene (PCE) was detected in drinking water wells at elevated levels. As part of an immediate response to address the contamination, EPA has been distributing bottled water, free of charge, to residents with potentially affected wells in the Rahway Avenue area of East Norriton Township. An investigation into the source of the contamination is underway. PCE is also called tetrachloroethylene, and sometimes nicknamed “perc”. It is commonly used in dry cleaning and metal de-greasers.

## Some Methods to Conserve Water Are...

- ✓ Fix leaky (‘running’) faucets and toilets
- ✓ Place a squeeze type (piston grip) nozzle on your garden hose, so you can control when and how much water you use
- ✓ Turn off water while brushing your teeth and shaving
- ✓ Run washing machines and dishwashers only when they are fully loaded
- ✓ Refrigerate a pitcher of drinking water rather than running the water until it’s cold
- ✓ Use a broom instead of a hose on porches and sidewalks



## For More Information, Contact...

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